

Divn office of Environment Directorate to open in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

The government will open a divisional office of the Environment Directorate here and upgrade Rajshahi Forest School to a college soon.

Forest and Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj disclosed this while he was inaugurating a 10-day tree fair here Tuesday.

The minister told the function that a master plan would be taken for massive plantation of fruit and herbal saplings in the Barind area.

Referring to the environmental degradation caused by adverse effects of the Farakka Barrage, he said the existence of the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, is now at stake.

"The ongoing desertification in northern districts is also the result of the Farakka barrage," the minister said.

Dhaka wants solution to river water problems with neighbour

Minister tells WWFJ publication ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water Resources Minister LK Siddiqui said yesterday Bangladesh wants a permanent solution to the river water problem with the neighbouring country, which will help reduce the extent of floods in the country.

He hoped that the neighbouring country would come forward to work out a proper solution to the problem for the benefit of the two peoples.

The minister was speaking at the publication ceremony of a report titled "State of World Water, 2001" published by the World Water Forum of Journalists (WWFJ) at the conference room of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) in the city.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury and Environment Secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed attended the programme as special guests. Secretary General of WWFJ and FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury presided.

The Water Resources Minister said Bangladesh faces floods every year for its geographical location, but this problem could be solved to a great extent with proper water management of the 54 common rivers.

Referring to the Ganges waters, he said Bangladesh not only needs its just share, but also want the

flow of fresh water from this international river.

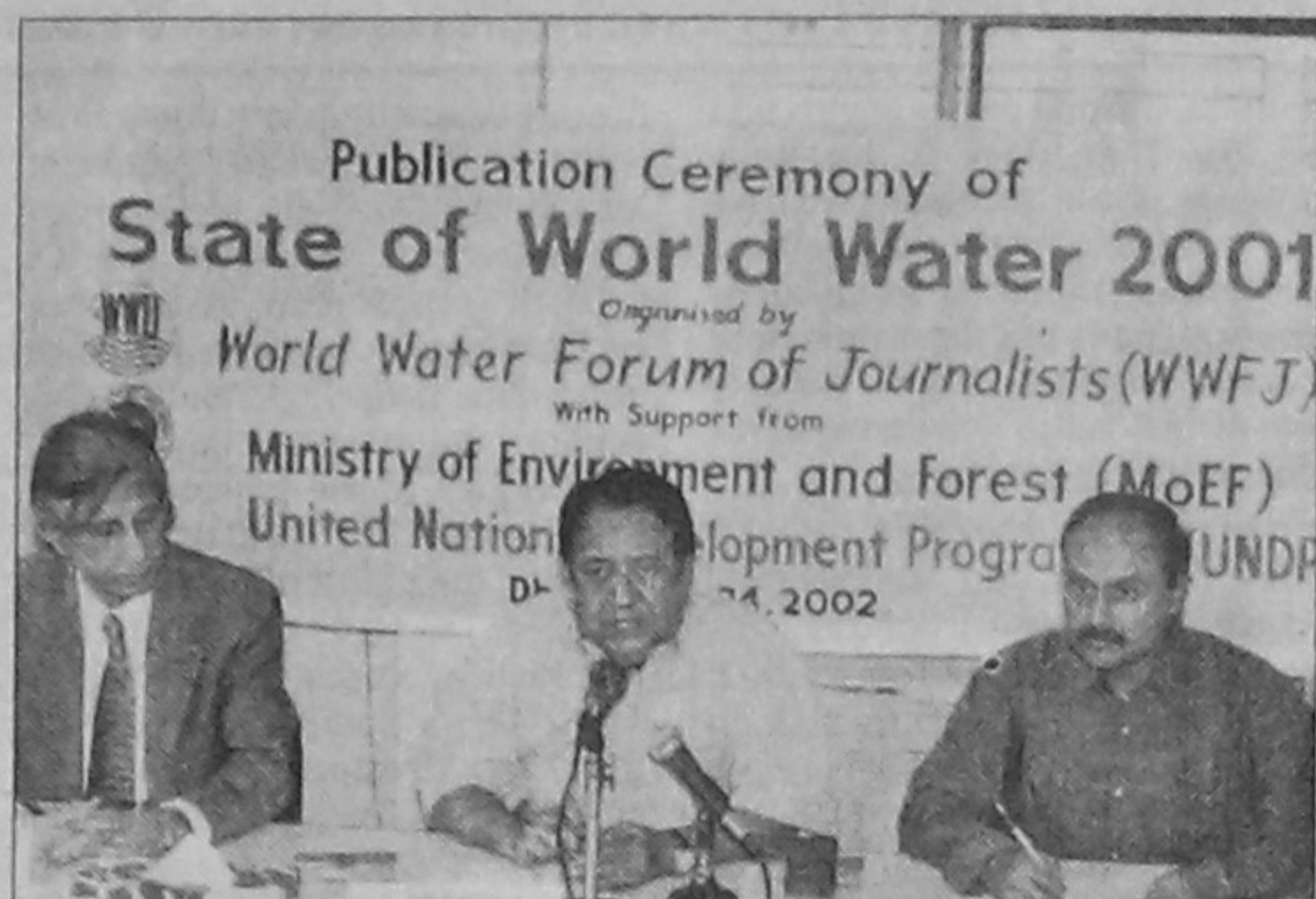
The minister expressed concern that the waters of Ganges have become highly polluted at the upstream due to dumping of industrial and other wastes. Environment Secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed described water as the best natural resources, saying that the experts consider water more valuable than the oil.

Lauding the publication of the report, he said that national and global water issues have been

adequately highlighted in the 'State of World Water, 2001' in a very informative and popular manner.

Quamrul Islam Chowdhury in his speech highlighted various aspects of the report and stressed the need for adoption of a proper water policy for the survival of mankind and the nature.

Water and environment experts from various national and international organisations attended the ceremony.



Water Resources Minister Engineer L K Siddiqui addressing the publication ceremony of 'State of World Water 2001' at the FEJB field office in the city organised by the World Water Forum of Journalists (WWFJ) yesterday.

Time for renewal of dealing licences extended

BSS, Dhaka

The time for renewal of dealing licence for essential commodities in Dhaka district for the current fiscal has been extended to August 31.

The businessmen who could not apply by June 30 for the renewal of their licences to deal with cloth, yarn, iron, steel goods, cement, cigarette and dairy products have been asked to submit their applications to the deputy commissioner's office of Dhaka within the deadline, an official press release said yesterday.

The dealing licences of the businessmen who will fail to renew those within the deadline will stand cancelled.

MIU to launch MBA programme

Manarat International University (MIU) is launching its MBA programme from Fall Semester 2002, says a press release.

MIU started its operation in May 2001 with undergraduate programmes in Business Administration (BBA) and Computer Science & Technology (CST).

In addition to this, the name of Computer Science and Technology (CST) department has recently been changed to Computer Science & Engineering (CSE).

Admission process for the Fall Semester is going on and the admission test for BBA, MBA and CSE programmes will be held on July 31 at 10:00 am at the MIU campus.

Rly land to be used for CNG stations

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to allot the unutilised lands of Bangladesh Railway for setting up of compressed natural gas (CNG) stations.

With a view to utilising the unutilised lands and strengthening the movement to create a pollution-free environment, the ministry decided to set up the stations on the lands of Railway and Roads and Highways Department.

Addressing a meeting on setting up of CNG stations on Railways lands, Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday said his ministry took the decision for commercial use of these lands to fund the state exchequer through increasing internal revenues of the government in line with the main spirit of the new budget.

The meeting, held at the communications ministry, discussed 72 proposals submitted for using the lands to set up CNG stations.

Huda said the previous government allotted the lands of Railway at a very nominal price and condition, which are undesirable and morally not supportable.

Under the present government's decision, he said, expenditure on fuel of vehicles would decline, the government revenues would increase and above all create employment opportunities in the private sector along with creating a pollution-free environment.

The meeting also set some

conditions for the approved applicants to build CNG stations on these lands.

State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed, Secretary Syed Rezaul Haq, Director General of Bangladesh Railway Ataur Rahman and concerned high officials were present on the occasion.

Indian saris worth Tk 15 lakh seized

BSS, Dhaka

The officials of Customs Surveillance and Investigation Department seized contraband Indian saris worth about Tk 15 lakh in Comilla on Tuesday.

The officials, who were waiting for a truck at the toll plaza on the eastern side of Daudkandi Bridge on the basis of secret information, challenged its driver at 2.45 am.

They searched the truck and recovered 2,907 cotton saris and deposited the goods along with the vehicle with the state warehouse.

Earlier on July 7, the department seized a truck laden with Indian saris worth about Tk 16 lakh from the Export Processing Zone at Savar.

Two separate departmental cases were filed in this connection.



CJA president arrives tonight

Murray Burt, President of the London-based Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) will arrive in Dhaka tonight on a three-day visit, says a press release.

The CJA is an organisation of Commonwealth's working journalists. It has branches in most Commonwealth countries, including Bangladesh.

The CJA will celebrate its silver jubilee and hold its conference in Dhaka in February next year.

During his stay in Dhaka, Burt will meet government and opposition leaders, editors and journalists.

The CJA, Bangladesh chapter will accord a reception to him.

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Interested candidates are requested to send their résumé with passport size photograph and telephone contact details, addressed to **Human Resources Department, GPO Box 2962, Dhaka** to reach us on or before **10th August 2002**. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.



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Training Workshop on Make-Up

Ms. Farzana Shakil, renowned Make-up Artist and Partner of Persona Hair & Beauty, will conduct personal make-up training workshops on casual, party and formal make-up. The workshops will be held on 3rd and 4th August, 2002 at BRAC Center Inn, Mohakhali and WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi respectively. Course fee is Tk. 1000. Please contact Farzana Shakil at Persona, House 405 (old), Rd. 27 (old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka, for registration forms. Details can be had by calling 811-0179, 811-1988, 018-215160. All proceeds from course fees will be donated in aid of Acid victims.

Ms. Farzana Shakil was inadvertently referred as Owner of Persona in the Daily Star of July 21, 2002. The sponsor MRM Securities Ltd., regret the mistake.

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